



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Iran – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

January 12, 2004

BACKGROUND

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on December 26, 2003, at 05:27 local time, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale struck southeastern Iran's Kerman Province. The epicenter of the earthquake, with a depth of 10 km, was near the city of Bam, 180 km southeast of the provincial capital of Kerman and 975 km southeast of Tehran.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that 115,000 people live in and around Bam, all of whom have been affected by the earthquake. According to UN OCHA, the Government of Iran (GOI) estimates the earthquake resulted in the deaths of 30,000 people and injured 30,000 residents.
- According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), the GOI estimates that 85 percent of buildings have been destroyed in Bam and the surrounding area. UN OCHA reports that GOI estimates that 45,000 people are homeless, and this number is expected to rise to 75,000 upon the return of those currently staying with relatives or being hospitalized outside Bam. Many of the homeless are sleeping outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures.
- The USAID/DART reports that 20 of the 70 villages surrounding Bam have been affected by the earthquake.
- The USAID/DART reports that while few habitable structures remain in Bam, many residents are using sections of heavily damaged houses and buildings and putting themselves in danger due to aftershocks.
- According to the USAID/DART, priority needs are water and sanitation, internally displaced persons, and shelter.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population Killed	30,000	UN OCHA / GOI
Total Population Injured	30,000	UN OCHA / GOI
Total Homeless	45,000 – 75,000	UN OCHA / GOI

TOTAL USAID/DART EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....\$3,100,475
TOTAL USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN\$5,112,760

CURRENT SITUATION

Shelter

- According to a January 11 report from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the majority of people in Bam have received a tent and settled near their former homes. Three camps, out of a planned five, have been established in Bam to date.
- *Green Camp:* The Green Camp, established by the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), is managed by Mercy Corps, Peace Winds Japan, Global Partners, and Islamic Relief. According to the USAID/DART, approximately 850 persons occupy 210 tents, and families have reserved the remaining 110 tents. The camp has 102 latrines and 48 showers with hot water. There are two 10,000 liter water bladders and one 95,000 cubic meter tank. The local authorities are scheduled to provide city water to the camp in the near future. Médecins Sans Frontières is currently providing medical care for 80 to 90 camp residents daily. On January 11, a school was opened in the camp.
- *International Blue Crescent (IBC):* The USAID/DART reports that the Turkish non-governmental organization (NGO), the IBC, manages a second camp with 800 tents planned. To date, 83 tents have arrived and the IBC reports that the rest of the housing will arrive by January 20. The GOI will provide sewage, water, and electricity to the camp.
- *Islamic Relief:* According to the USAID/DART, Islamic Relief has cleared land and designed the layout for a third camp to house an estimated 300 families in southeastern Bam.

Food

- According to the U.N. Flash Appeal, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has prepared 6,512 metric tons (MT) of commodities, including bread, rice, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar, nutritional biscuits, and salt for approximately 100,000 beneficiaries for three months. The commodities are based on a cold weather ration of approximately 3,000 calories per day. WFP plans to start food distributions at the beginning of February.
- Alabama Disaster Relief is providing two hot meals to 1,400 to 1,500 people per day in the Green Camp.

Agriculture

- The USAID/DART reports that Bam's economy is mainly agriculture based, focusing on dates and citrus fruits. On January 10, the USAID/DART surveyed a major portion of the southern and western date orchard areas and observed that the trees did not seem damaged by the earthquake. However, the irrigation systems used in the orchards are over 90 percent destroyed in certain areas, raising concern about the size of the anticipated harvest in March. The GOI has reported to the USAID/DART that the citrus orchards north of Bam are not as damaged as the date groves.

Fuel

- The USAID/DART reports that there are lines for fuel. Due to fuel rationing in Bam, no one may receive a full tank.

Health

- According to UN OCHA, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that incidents of communicable diseases in Bam have not significantly increased. No cases of hepatitis, brucellosis, malaria, tuberculosis, or typhoid fever have been reported to date.
- According to the IFRC, nine people, divided into three teams, are currently deployed in Bam to address psycho-social issues. Each team organizes recreational activities for children and provides psychological counseling.

Sanitation

- According to UN OCHA, WHO reports that approximately 1,000 new latrines had been established and an additional 100-200 latrines had been repaired as of January 12.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- The 81-member USAID/DART team arrived in country on December 30 via two C-17s and a C-130. The USAID members included a Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Operations Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Communications Officer, Information Officer, and Security Officer. Other components of the DART included the 11 member Fairfax County USAR Task Force (VA-TF1) and the 57 member International Medical/Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT) and 6 member Management Support Team (MST) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- From December 31 to Jan 5, the USAID/DART set up operations in Bam, conducted needs and structural assessments, and coordinated with the GOI Ministry of Health, the U.N., and NGOs. From December 31 to January 4, the IMSuRT field hospital treated 727 patients, 30 percent of whom had earthquake-related injuries, including surgeries and post-trauma mental health cases. The IMSuRT field hospital closed on January 5, and new patients were referred to the IFRC field hospital.
- On January 6, the USAID/DART donated the IMSuRT field hospital and medical supplies to the IFRC.
- On January 6, the majority of the USAID/DART departed Bam. Four USAID representatives and four VA-TF1 members remain in Bam, and the OFDA Acting Director has joined them as the USAID/DART leader. The USAID/DART representatives are remaining in Bam to continue assessments, programming, and coordinating with the IFRC, U.N., and NGOs. The USAID/DART will provide oversight on the disposition of commodities and equipment, as well as provide emergency first responder training, in conjunction with the IFRC and the U.N.
- On January 7, USAID/DART members repaired tents at an IRCS facility. The tents, some of which had been donated by the USAID/DART IMSuRT, were damaged in a sandstorm.
- USAID/OFDA has sent four airlifts of relief commodities, consisting of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, approximately 12,500 blankets, and 1,026 winterized tents at a total cost of \$386,765.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$600,000 to the IFRC in support of their Preliminary Appeal.
- On January 9, in response to the U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA provided \$211,610 to UN OCHA for the coordination of humanitarian activities.
- According to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), seven C-130s have airlifted approximately 68 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies, 2,000 blankets, and a 10K forklift to assist in offloading relief commodities in Bam.

ESTIMATED USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/DART ASSISTANCE			
USAID*	Logistics and commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$761,765
IFRC	Contribution to Preliminary Appeal for commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$600,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Earthquake-affected regions	\$211,610
USAR*	Urban Search and Rescue Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$668,200
FEMA*	Medical Assistance Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$720,000
Administrative		Earthquake-affected regions	\$81,050
TOTAL USAID/DART EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$3,100,475
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DOD*	COMMODITIES AND AIR TRANSPORTATION	Earthquake-affected regions	\$2,012,285
TOTAL DOD EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$2,012,285
TOTAL USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN			\$5,112,760

* These figures represent estimated costs as of January 12, 2004.

OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE

- On January 8, at a donor conference in Bam, the IFRC and the U.N. launched joint appeals to address emergency needs. The IFRC appealed for \$42 million, which includes the previous appeal of \$12.3 million, to assist as many as 210,000 people for up to 8 months. The U.N. appealed for \$31.3 million for relief and rehabilitation for the next 90 days. The ceremony was attended by 140 representatives from the U.N., foreign governments, International Organizations, NGOs, journalists, and the USAID/DART.
- The IFRC Appeal includes \$12.3 million for shelter, \$3.3 million for clothing, \$4.3 million for food and seeds, \$5.1 million for water and sanitation, \$5.2 million for health, \$298,000 for teaching materials, \$4.3 million for utensils and tools, and \$16.1 million for equipment, program support, and administrative services.
- The U.N. Flash Appeal includes \$2.5 million for food and logistics, \$5.7 million for water and sanitation, \$6.3 million for health and nutrition, \$3.7 million for the protection of children and women, \$3.9 million for education, \$200,000 for cultural heritage, \$2.5 million for shelter, and \$261,610 for coordination and security.
- According to UN OCHA, more than 44 countries sent personnel to assist in rescue and relief operations in Bam.
- On January 12, UN OCHA reported that more than 33 countries had pledged a total of approximately \$58.3 million in assistance, including monetary and non-food items.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their earthquake response efforts in Iran can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov/iran, or by calling (703) 276-1914. USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov/iran
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.